



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/985,673	11/05/2001	Hartley Moyes	6240.241	4016

7590 01/23/2006

Joseph W. Berenato, III  
Liniak, Berenato, Longacre & White, LLC  
Suite 240  
6550 Rock Spring Drive  
Bethesda, MD 20817

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, CHI Q

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3635

DATE MAILED: 01/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/985,673	<b>Applicant(s)</b> MOYES, HARTLEY	
	<b>Examiner</b> Chi Q Nguyen	<b>Art Unit</b> 3635	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 July 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 18-20 and 23-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 18-20 and 23-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 November 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### **DETAILED ACTION**

This Office action is in response to the applicant's amendment filed on 7/7/2005.

#### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 2/18/2005 has been entered.

#### ***Claim Objections***

Claim 25 is objected to because of the following informalities: There are two claims are numbered "25". Appropriate correction is required.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 18-20, and 25-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lynch (US 5,766,774).

In regard claims 18, 19, Lynch teaches molded hollow door core comprising a door frame 20, first, second door skins 11, 11a, are attached to the door frame 20 so as to define a hollow core area 59 therebetween, at least one of said skins being a molded

Art Unit: 3635

wood door skin (see col. 1, lines 32-34, and 50-51), said one molded door skin having molded therein a plurality of panels 14, 15, (figure 1) or 41-46 (figure 2). Thorn does not teach specifically the molded skin door has bond strength of at least about 2.0 and 2.5N/mm<sup>2</sup>, respectively. Applicant fails to show criticality for specifically claimed bonded strength, therefore it would have been an obvious design choice to use the bonded strength such specified in these claims. Further, having a specific range of bonded strength for the door skin, it would have been an obvious of engineering design choice because the motivation for doing so would have been to provide an appropriate bonded strength for door skin thus preventing the skin would not fallen apart.

In regard claim 20, Lynch teaches the basic structural elements as stated and further teaches (col. 2, lines 16-18) wherein each of said first and second door skins is a molded door skin formed by pressing a mat is then transferred to a press under heat and pressure to form the wood composite. Lynch does not teach expressly the molded door skin having a density of at least about 550kg/m<sup>3</sup>. Applicant fails to show criticality for specifically claimed skin density; therefore it would have been an obvious design choice to use the skin density such specified in these claims. Further, since the claim is set forth a hollow core door apparatus and although Lynch teaches the claimed limitation. However, the cited limitation "a molded door skin formed by pressing a loose bat or mat into a wood composite flat door blank having a density of at least about 550kg/m<sup>3</sup>, and thereafter moisturizing, heating, and reforming in a press said flat door blank into a molded door skin..." is considered as method of forming a device and is not

Art Unit: 3635

germane to the issue of patentability of the device itself. Therefore, this limitation has not been given patentable weight.

In regard claim 25, Lynch teaches the basic structural elements for the claimed invention as stated, wherein further said one molded door skin has an outer planar portion, an inner planar portion, and a contoured portion 12/12a between and integral with said outer and inner planar portion (fig. 3).

In regard claim 26, Lynch teaches the basic structural elements for the claimed invention as stated, wherein further said outer planer portion lies on a plane that is coplanar with the plane of said inner planer portion (see figs. 1-2).

In regard claim 27, Lynch teaches the basic structural elements for the claimed invention as stated and further said contoured portion includes an angled offset portion 31-36 (fig. 2) or 18-19 (figure 1).

In regard claim 28, Lynch teaches the basic structural elements for the claimed invention as stated and further said contoured portion has a thickness differing from the thickness of said outer an inner planar portions.

Claims 23, 24, 29 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lynch in view of Thorn (US 4,50,540).

In regards to claims 23, 24, 29, and 30, Lynch teaches the basic structural elements for the claimed invention as stated. However, Lynch does not teach specifically wherein said one molded door skin has an exteriorly disposed side having a moisture impervious barrier thereon and the moisture impervious barrier is selected from the group consisting of melamine impregnated crepe paper, phenolic resin crepe

Art Unit: 3635

paper, and cross-lined polymer resin, and wherein said one molded door skin has an exteriorly disposed side having a pigmented sealer provides a uniform colored surface. Thorn teaches molded door assembly, which including an outer skin layer may be stained with a wood stain or with topcoat, such as a clear urethane or acrylic topcoat thus give the skins moisture impervious barrier and a pleasing appearance (col. 3, lines 60-65). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one having an ordinary skill in the art to combine Lynch with Thorn for well-known door skin coated with paint or other coating material, etc. pigmented sealer. The motivation for doing so would have been to prevent moisture permeable and enhance more pleasing to the door surfaces.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 18-20, and 23-30 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Klasell, Cronin, Martino, Ruggie, Rinker, Aufderhaar, Crittenden, and Persson teach composite door skin.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Chi Q. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-6847, Mon-Thu (7:00-5:30), Fridays off or examiner's supervisor, Carl Friedman can be reached at (571) 272-6842. The examiner's right fax number is (571) 273-6847.

Art Unit: 3635

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pairdirect.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at (866) 217-9197.

1/17/2006

*on*  
CQN

*Brad Keith*  
BRAD KEITH  
EXAMINER AU 3635